

Meeting Notes

June 4 2014 11 AM

Reclamation District 833 Office
1643 West Biggs Gridley Road, Gridley CA

Evaluation of the MUN Beneficial Use in Surface Ag Dominated Water Bodies

Attendees:

Bennett Engineering Services (for the City of Biggs POTW)

Brian Martin

Reclamation District 833

Charles Nuchols

Central Valley Water Board

Anne Littlejohn

Cindy Au Yeung

Meeting Objectives:

- Provide a brief update on the project
- Review hydrology and water management in the study area

Meeting Summary

1. Update

- a. A brief update on the current MUN project was provided covering:
 - i. Overview of water body categorization process (Flow Chart 1)
 - ii. Schedule for the Basin Plan Amendment
- b. This initial MUN study will lead to a broader analysis of all the appropriate beneficial uses in the Central Valley's agriculturally dominated water bodies

2. Hydrology and Water Management

- a. After reviewing Flow Chart 1, meeting representatives agreed that characterizing the water bodies downstream of the City of Biggs Wastewater Treatment Plant as constructed Ag Drains was appropriate.
- b. Confirmation that the water bodies were constructed by 1936.

- c. Biggs-West Gridley Water District owns and manages the water and dams in the RD 833 district.
- d. Main source of water to Biggs-West Gridley Water District is surface water from the Thermolito Afterbay. The Biggs-West Gridley Water District also owns groundwater wells.
- e. Map review confirmed the location of dams along the Main Drainage Canal. Landowners use pumps to pull water out of the Main Drainage Canal for irrigation.
- f. Grey Lodge can receive water from the Main Drainage Canal via Lateral C at the Liberty Road Dam. However, this is not their main route for supply water.
- g. The Main Drainage Canal receives urban and storm runoff from the cities of Biggs and Gridley via Lateral E.
- h. Lateral K receives urban runoff from the City of Biggs in addition to the drainage from the surrounding orchards and rice fields.
- i. Water bodies may contain groundwater seepage.
- j. RD 833 conducts the maintenance activities in Lateral K and the Main Drainage Canal as needed. Maintenance activities may include excavation or dredging. The Main Drainage Canal requires very little maintenance – maybe only 1-2% of the district’s total maintenance activities. Lateral K is smaller and does require more frequent clearing.
- k. RD 833 also has a State Water Resources Control Board NPDES Aquatic Pesticide Permit. The district sprays with Aquaneat yearly during the irrigation season.
- l. RD 833 does not do any water quality monitoring other than that required by their NPDES permit. Due to past water quality results, their monitoring in Lateral E has been reduced this year with their new permit.
- m. Representatives confirmed that no surface water in these case study water bodies is used for drinking water and there are no plans for such a use.

3. Next Steps

- a. Central Valley Water Board will send a draft water body categorization report to meeting representatives for review and feedback.
- b. Central Valley Water Board will keep representatives updated on project schedule.